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GARRISON NOT GUILTY OF U.S. TAX EVASION

NEW ORLEANS, March 26 (AP)—New Orleans District Attorney Jim Garrison was found not guilty of income tax evasion today by a United States District Court jury.

Mr. Garrison, the controversial prosecutor who gained national attention with his investigation of the assassination of President Kennedy, had been accused of failing to report $60-000 in income for the years 1965-67-part of it allegedly from bribes.

Last year, Mr. Garrison was acquitted of bribery charges. He acted as his own defense lawyer in both trials.

The charges carried a maximum penalty of three years in prison and a $5,000 fine on each count.

The verdict came five days before Mr. Garrison leaves office after 12 years. He was defeated in December shortly after the first trial.

In both cases the Government contested that Mr. Garrison had taken bribes to protect illegal gambling on pinball machines. He said that he had been framed.

Mr. Garrison said the tax case was "a means of retaliation retribution to an individual who may be a problem to the Government"-a reference to his long-standing complaint that his investigation of the Kennedy assassination had led to his harassment by the Government.